

U.S. Department of Justice



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MEDIA RELEASE

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MASSACHUSETTS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO INTERNET FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that DANIELLE SCHRANK, aka DANIELLE MULLANEY, 28, of Revere, MA, pleaded guilty to one charge of wire fraud in U. S. District Court in Concord.

Schrank pleaded guilty to willfully and knowingly making false statements in the sale, over the e-Bay internet auction service, of items later discovered to have been stolen. The e-Bay service was itself in no way involved in the thefts or in the knowing sale of stolen property, and e-Bay personnel assisted in the investigation.

The case resulted from an extensive investigation by the FBI, as well as the Pembroke, NH, Police Department, and the Police Departments of Upton, Holliston, and Hopkinton, Massachusetts. Schrank lived in Pembroke, NH at the time the offense took place, and the property sold and later determined to be stolen came from a string of burglaries in Massachusetts.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Use of the internet as a tool of crime is increasing across America and will continue to be addressed very aggressively by this office". Colantuono commended the FBI, Pembroke, NH, Police Department, and the Massachusetts police departments involved in the investigation for what he termed their "exceptionally diligent and efficient" handling of "a very complex" investigation.

Schrank's sentencing hearing was set by US District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe for June 24, 2003 at 11:00 AM. Assistant U. S. Attorney Al Rubega prosecuted this case.